

SPECIAL CABLES.

FROM THE "HERALD'S" LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

THE AMERICAN FLEET.

LONDON, March 20. The United States fleet which assembled at Key West, an island off the coast of Florida, has dispersed.

Two warships have been ordered to Hampton Roads, Virginia, as a first step towards forming a North Atlantic squadron.

AFFAIRS IN ITALY.

THE CRISI COMMISSION.

LONDON, March 20. The commission appointed to inquire into the charges against Signor Crispi, the Premier of Italy, has decided that his conduct as a Minister in stopping the United States in the Bank of Naples scandal was deserving of censure, but that there is no ground for his impeachment.

THE SOUDAN.

ADVANCE OF THE BRITISH AND EGYPTIAN FORCES.

AN ENGAGEMENT IMMINENT.

LONDON, March 20. The Derwishes have left Elahab and are moving northwards.

March 21. After church service on Sunday the British troops at Atbara saw the National Anthem, and the whole force forming the Anglo-Egyptian expedition, under the command of Major-General Sir E. Kitchener, marched to meet the advancing Derwishes. It was a splendid spectacle. The British and Egyptian troops camped at Hudi.

FRENCH INTERESTS IN CHINA AND AFRICA.

EXPLANATION BY M. HANOTAUX.

LONDON, March 21. Speaking in the French Chamber of Deputies, M. Hanotaux, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, explained that France had no desire to settle in the province of Yunnan, in south-western China, or to see southern China.

HEALTH OF MR. GLADSTONE.

HIS CONDITION SERIOUS.

LONDON, March 21. The condition of Mr. Gladstone's health is serious, and much anxiety is felt.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

LONDON, March 21.

The "Times," in referring to the Federal Convention which has just closed at Melbourne, says that federation will immensely increase the dignity of national life in Australia, and practically create a new British Power in the Pacific.

THE DOCK AT AUCKLAND.

LONDON, March 21.

Mr. J. Austen Chamberlain, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, states that the Admiralty authorities are considering the matter of the suggested grant for the Calliope dock at Auckland.

THE PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

LONDON, March 21.

The plague continues to rage in Bombay. The deaths average 216 per day.

PICTURES FOR THE QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY.

LONDON, March 20.

The trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, have purchased MacCallum's well-known picture, "Sunday Afternoon Parade," for £300.

A RETURNING COLONIST.

LONDON, March 21.

Mr. A. B. Webster, the firm of Webster & Co., Brisbane, sails on his return to Queensland in April.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE.

LONDON, March 21.

The betting on the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, which is to be rowed on the 26th inst., is 7 to 4 on the Oxford crew.

MINING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

LONDON, March 21.

The committee of the Western Australian Chamber of Mines approves of Sir John Forrest's measure of temporary relief for mining companies, and urges a prohibition against alluvial miners entering upon mining leases.

BILLIARDS.

ROBERTS V. WEISS.

LONDON, March 21.

The match arranged between Weiss, the Australian billiard champion, and John Roberts, the English champion, is now being played. Weiss received 6500 start out of 21,000, and the spot stroke was half-barrel.

LIVERPOOL MADE FAMOUS.

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THE FAR EAST.

THE RUSSIAN AND FRENCH DEMANDS UPON CHINA.

LONDON, March 21.

A Russian telegram states that China offers to lease Tientsin, and to permit the construction by Russia of a railway to Port Arthur, provided that the fortress remains in the possession of the Chinese.

THE PUKIA CORRESPONDENT.

THE "TIMES" SAYS THAT THE FRENCH DEMANDS DO NOT INCLUDE THE PROVINCE OF KWANG-SI.

SITUATION IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

BULGARIA AND TURKEY.

ACTIVITY OF MACEDONIAN COMMITTEES.

LONDON, March 21.

The activity of the Macedonian committees in Bulgaria has induced Turkey to make troops on the frontier.

THE SITUATION IS STRAINED DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF PRINCE FERDINAND TO REPRESS THE AGITATORS.

SERBIA AND ROMANIA ARE JEALOUSLY WATCHING BULGARIA.

THE FINANCES OF INDIA.

FRESH TAXATION UNNECESSARY.

LONDON, March 21.

Mr. James Westland, K.C.S.I., one of the members of the Council of the Government-General of India, reports that despite famine, war, and plague, the Indian revenue is elastic, and fresh taxation will be unnecessary.

QUEENSLAND.

HISBANE, Monday.

The weather in Brisbane is somewhat fine, but still showery. Mr. Wragge state that the tropical depression is travelling south-east towards New Caledonia, and that squally weather is certain between Cape Horn and Cape Capricorn.

THE FURNAL OF SIR ARTHUR PAXTON, President of the Legislative Council, to-day was attended by a large number of members of the Ministry and both Houses of Parliament. The service was conducted by the Rev. T. Jones, of Toowoomba, many years connected with the Brisbane Diocese.

A large number of the attendance of the service were present. The public offices and courts closed at the afternoon as a mark of respect.

Completed returns from Wide Bay give the following figures for the month of February:—

The Stock Board which is visiting the sick country and has been on the ground for some time, is expected to reach Rockhampton to-night, there to take the central railway line during the week, going from Longreach terminus to Murrumbidgee. A special train is placed at their disposal by the department.

Another portion of Headland Hill has been reported, the lands being thrown open for selection, including the local station.

Heavy rain fell in the back country from Bundaberg yesterday, and caused a rapid rise in the Burnett River. It is expected that the river will be submerged to-night. It is now rising steadily.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, Monday.

Last night the shop of Daniel Goldsmith, dealer in Hilder street, was broken into and a quantity of jewellery stolen. The detectives were on the scene very shortly after the theft was discovered about daylight this morning, and after a search of the premises, and examination of the shop, they were unable to find the stolen goods.

The extension of the fire alarm system and the installation of a large number of fire engines, the fire station were also strongly urged. The board found that the supply of water for fire purposes was inadequate, and recommended that the water supply be increased.

The steamer Nairnshire, from London, has on board two young burlesque boys for Dr. John Hay, of Derby Estate, New South Wales.

The recovery of the ship "The Charge of the Heavy Brigade," was broken into and a quantity of jewellery stolen. The detectives were on the scene very shortly after the theft was discovered about daylight this morning, and after a search of the premises, and examination of the shop, they were unable to find the stolen goods.

This morning the city coroner conducted an inquiry into the death of Florence Brier, who was buried to death at Parkside Lunatic Asylum. The jury returned a verdict of death by poisoning by her own act through accidentally setting fire to her clothes.

This evening Madame Albani appeared in Handel's oratorio, and was highly applauded. The attendance was very large.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND, Monday.

Yesterday, while the steamer Corina was on her way from Wellington to Lyttelton, a passenger named William John Gilpin deliberately jumped overboard. The body was recovered in eight minutes, and the man was then dead.

The "Gazette" notices that the New Zealand Police will receive £100,000 for the year ending 1898-99.

The famous Maori chief, Haimona Hiri, is dying near Wanganui of cancer. He saved Wanganui from being taken to the conclusion by friendly natives with the words, "Here I fight and here I die."

As the result of the recent Government defeat at Wellington, it has been decided to engage a travelling organiser for the Government party.

The money deposited by the foreign insurance companies with the public trustee will henceforth bear interest at 1 per cent instead of 1/2 per cent. Each company deposits £10,000.

A son of Mr. Vincent Pyke, manager of the Bank of New Zealand at Gisborne, while opening a new fall to the pavement beneath and was killed.

The yacht Meteor has been shipped by the Elginville for Sydney to compete with the "Breeze."

The eldest son of A. D. Wright, stationmaster at Helmsdale, near Auckland, accidentally shot himself while out shooting. He was found in the cemetery lying over his mother's grave.

The following is the result of the firing for the New Zealand Rifle Association's Champion Belt:—Mr. G. O. O'Connor, 200; Mr. R. W. G. O'Connor, 190; Mr. R. W. G. O'Connor, 180.

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